Appl. No.: 09/731,359
Amdt. Dated December 22, 2004
Reply to Non-Final Office Action of June 28, 2004

Docket No.: 30410/36981

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-103 (canceled)

Claim 104 (currently amended): A digital image management system comprising:

an electronic storage facility for providing storage for high resolution digital images of a plurality of unrelated image providers, at least some of the high resolution digital images stored in the electronic storage facility being used to develop corresponding low resolution copies, each of the high resolution digital images ~~image~~ having a higher bandwidth communication requirement than each of the corresponding low resolution copies, the electronic storage facility storing the high resolution digital images of a first one of the image providers such that the high resolution digital images of the first image provider can only be accessed by an authorized user identified by the first image provider and such that the high resolution digital images of the first image provider are transparent to other unrelated image providers that are not authorized users identified by the first image provider;

means for notifying an authorized user identified by the first image provider that the authorized user has been authorized to download a low resolution copy corresponding to one of the high resolution digital images ~~image~~, wherein the notifying means transmits at least a portion of a pathname associated with the low resolution copy to the authorized user;

means for allowing the authorized user to download the low resolution copy corresponding to one of the high resolution digital images ~~image~~ of the first image provider from the electronic storage facility to a first location; and

means for electronically routing the high resolution digital image to a printer in response to a request from the authorized user.

Claim 105 (previously presented): A digital image management system as defined in claim 104, further comprising means for processing the high resolution digital images to develop the corresponding low resolution copies.

Claim 106 (previously presented): A digital image management system as defined in claim 104, further comprising a mail database, the mail database including a conventional address for the authorized user.

Claim 107 (previously presented): A digital image management system as defined in claim 104, further comprising a search engine for searching among digital images stored in the storage device.

Claim 108 (previously presented): A digital image management and delivery system comprising:

a storage device for providing storage for digital images of a plurality of unrelated image providers, the storage device storing the digital images of a first one of the image providers such that the digital images of the first image provider can only be accessed by an authorized user identified by the first image provider and such that the digital images of the first image provider are transparent to users that are not authorized by the first image provider;

a searching engine for developing a subset of the digital images stored in the storage device by the first image provider in response to inputs received from the first image provider, the searching engine being adapted to download low resolution copies of the subset to the first image provider;

a mail server for e-mailing a notification message to the authorized user via the Internet;

a transmitter for transmitting at least a portion of a pathname to the first authorized user via the Internet; and

a router for electronically routing at least one high resolution copy of a digital image contained in the subset and identified by the authorized user to a printer.

Claim 109 (previously presented): A system as defined in claim 108 wherein the digital images are input into the system by the first image provider via a communication device.

Claim 110 (previously presented): A system as defined in claim 109 further comprising an image handler for processing the digital images input by the first image provider, the image handler being adapted to develop low resolution images of the digital images received from the first image provider and to store both the digital images received from the first image provider and the low resolution images thereof in the storage device in an addressable fashion for future searching.

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Claim 111 (currently amended): A method of managing digital images comprising the steps of:

storing a high resolution and a low resolution copy of ~~each of a first plurality of digital images~~ a digital image provided by a first image provider in an electronically searchable format on a storage device;

storing a high resolution and a low resolution copy ~~of each~~ of a second ~~plurality of~~ digital image ~~images~~ provided by a second image provider in an electronically searchable format on a storage device;

permitting the first image provider to locate and download [[a]] the low resolution copy of ~~at least one of~~ the digital image ~~images~~ provided by the first image provider, the second ~~plurality of~~ digital image ~~images~~ being transparent to the first image provider;

e-mailing a notification message via the Internet to a first authorized user identified by the first image provider;

transmitting at least a portion of a pathname associated with the ~~at least one~~ digital image to the first authorized user via the Internet;

receiving a request to download from the first authorized user, the request identifying the ~~at least one~~ digital image;

receiving instructions from the first authorized user directing that the ~~at least one~~ digital image be printed; and

automatically electronically routing the high resolution copy of the ~~at least one~~ digital image to a printer.

Claim 112 (previously presented): A digital image management and delivery system comprising:

a storage device for storing digital images received from a first digital image provider and a second digital image provider;

a searching engine for developing a subset of the digital images stored in the storage device in response to inputs received from a first user, the searching engine being adapted to download low resolution copies of the subset to the first user;

a job order developer responsive to inputs received from the first user for developing a job order that includes at least one high resolution copy of a digital image contained in the subset and identified by the first user;

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a router for electronically routing the job order developed by the job order developer to a printer;

a user identifier for discriminating between users communicating with the system to control user access to the digital images stored in the storage device, the user identifier limiting access to the digital images provided by the first digital image provider to at least one user identified by the first digital image provider, wherein the digital images provided by the first digital image provider are transparent to all users except users identified by the first digital image provider;

a mail database for e-mailing a notification message to the at least one user identified by the first digital image provider; and

a transmitter for transmitting at least a portion of a pathname to the at least one user identified by the first digital image provider.

Claims 113-120 (canceled)

Claim 121 (currently amended): A digital image management system comprising:

an electronic storage facility for providing storage for high resolution digital images of a plurality of unrelated image providers, at least some of the high resolution digital images stored in the electronic storage facility being used to develop a̲ corresponding low resolution ~~copies~~ copy̲, each high resolution digital image having a higher bandwidth communication requirement than ~~each of~~ the corresponding low resolution copy̲ ~~copies~~, the electronic storage facility storing the high resolution digital images of a first one of the image providers such that the high resolution digital images of the first image provider can only be accessed by authorized users identified by the first image provider and such that the high resolution digital images of the first image provider are transparent to other unrelated image providers that are not authorized by the first image provider;

means for downloading a low resolution copy of one of the̲ [[a]] high resolution digital images̲ ~~image~~ to the first image provider;

means for electronically routing the low resolution copy ~~of the high resolution digital image~~ to an authorized user identified by the first image provider in response to a routing request from the first image provider;

means for allowing the authorized user to identify a high resolution digital image; and

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means for electronically routing the high resolution digital image from the <u>electronic storage facility</u> host to a printer.

Claim 122 (previously presented): A digital image management and delivery system comprising:

a storage device for providing storage for digital images of a plurality of unrelated image providers, the storage device storing the digital images of a first one of the image providers such that the digital images of the first image provider can only be accessed by an authorized user identified by the first image provider and such that the digital images of the first image provider are transparent to a user that is not authorized by the first image provider;

a searching engine for developing a subset of the digital images stored in the storage device by the first image provider in response to inputs received from one of the first image provider and the authorized user, the searching engine being adapted to download low resolution copies of the subset to the one of the first image provider and the authorized user; and .

a router for electronically routing at least one of the low resolution copies of the .subset to a first authorized user identified by the first image provider and for electronically routing at least one high resolution copy of a digital image contained in the subset and identified by the first authorized user to a printer.

Claim 123 (Currently amended): A method of managing digital images comprising the steps of:

storing a high resolution and a low resolution copy of each of a first plurality of digital images provided by a first image provider in an electronically searchable format on a storage device;

storing a high resolution and a low resolution copy of each of a second plurality of digital images provided by a second image provider in an electronically searchable format on a storage device, the second plurality of digital images being transparent to the first image provider and the first plurality of digital images being transparent to the second image provider;

downloading a low resolution copy of at least one of the <u>first plurality of</u> digital images provided by the first image provider to the first image provider;

automatically electronically routing via the Internet the low resolution copy of the at least one of the <u>first plurality of</u> digital images provided by the first image provider to a first authorized user identified by the first image provider;

receiving instructions from the first authorized user directing that the at least one <u>of the first plurality of</u> digital <u>images</u> ~~image~~ be printed; and

automatically electronically routing the high resolution copy of the at least one <u>of the first plurality of</u> digital <u>images</u> ~~image~~ to a printer.

Claim 124 (previously presented): A digital image management and delivery system comprising:

a storage device for storing digital images received from a first digital image provider and a second digital image provider;

a searching engine for developing a subset of the digital images stored in the storage device in response to inputs received from a first user, the searching engine being adapted to download low resolution copies of the subset to the first user;

a job order developer responsive to inputs received from the first user for developing a job order which includes at least one high resolution copy of a digital image contained in the subset and identified by the first user;

a user identifier for discriminating between users communicating with the system to control user access to the digital images stored in the storage device, the user identifier limiting access to the digital images provided by the first digital image provider to at least one user identified by the first digital image provider, wherein the digital images provided by the first digital image provider are transparent to all users except users identified by the first digital image provider; and

a router for electronically routing at least one of the low resolution copies to the at least one user identified by the first digital image provider and for electronically routing the job order developed by the job order developer to a printer.

Claim 125 (Currently amended): A digital image management system comprising:

an electronic storage facility for providing storage for high resolution digital images of a plurality of unrelated image providers, at least some of the high resolution digital images stored in the electronic storage facility being used to develop corresponding low resolution copies, each of the high resolution digital images image having a higher bandwidth communication requirement than each of the corresponding low resolution copy copies, the electronic storage facility storing the high resolution digital images of a first one of the image providers such that the high resolution digital images of the first image provider can only be accessed by authorized users identified by the first image provider and such that the high resolution digital images of the first image provider are transparent to other unrelated image providers that are not authorized by the first image provider;

means for electronically routing the low resolution copy of one of the high resolution digital images image to an authorized user identified by the first image provider in response to a routing request from the first image provider;

means for allowing the authorized user to identify a high resolution digital image; and

means for electronically routing the high resolution digital image from the electronic storage facility host to a printer.

Claim 126 (Currently amended): A method of managing digital images comprising the steps of:

storing a high resolution and a low resolution copy of each of a first plurality of digital images provided by a first image provider in an electronically searchable format on a storage device;

storing a high resolution and a low resolution copy of each of a second plurality of digital images provided by a second image provider in an electronically searchable format on a storage device, the second plurality of digital images being transparent to the first image provider and the first plurality of digital images being transparent to the second image provider.

automatically electronically routing via the Internet a low resolution copy of at least one of the first plurality of digital images provided by the first image provider to a first authorized user identified by the first image provider;

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receiving instructions from the first authorized user directing that the at least one <u>of</u>

<u>the first plurality of</u> digital ~~image~~ <u>images</u> be printed; and

automatically electronically routing the high resolution copy of the at least one <u>of the</u>

<u>first plurality of</u> digital ~~image~~ <u>images</u> to a printer.